

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009517

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-02 /005 R

66613
DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP: LRHAGE
APPROVED BY: IO: LKAHN
EUR/NE: JPOWENS (PHONE)

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R 161752Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 009517

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 151 ACTION SECSTATE JANUARY 14TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0151

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OGEN, SW, UN
SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS BY UN DIPLOMATS ON GASOLINE SHORTAGE

1) SITUATION RE: GAS RATIONING IN SWEDEN AS FOLLOWS:
AFTER AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION PASSED IN NOVEMBER AND
ADDITIONAL LAW ON FUEL RATIONING PASSED ON DECEMBER 14,
FONOFF SENT CIRCULAR NOTE TO EMBASSIES ON DECEMBER 17
EXPLAINING RATIONING SYSTEM (100 LITERS PER VEHICLE
FOR 52-DAY PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28) AND CONTAINING
FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:
"OWING TO THE NATURE OF THE FUEL SUPPLY SITUATION THE
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GRANT
SUPPLEMENTARY QUANTITIES OF PETROL OR DIESEL OIL IN
OTHER THAN QUALIFIED CASES - SUCH AS VEHICLES USED BY
HEADS OF MISSION AND OFFICIAL VEHICLES OF MISSIONS."

2) NOTE THEN INVITED EMBASSIES TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL
GASOLINE BY FORWARDING APPLICATIONS TO FONMIN. EMBASSY
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ADVISED FONOFF OF ADDITIONAL NEEDS

(APPROXIMATELY 300 LITERS PER CAR FOR PERIOD) FOR
OFFICIAL VEHICLES AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL GASOLINE.

3) DECEMBER 14 LAW CONTAINED FOLLOWING SENTENCE:
"THE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND SALARIED CONSULS OF A
FOREIGN MISSION ACCREDITED TO SWEDEN SHALL BE ISSUED
PURCHASE CARDS, PURCHASE LICENSES OR CONSUMPTION
PERMITS TO THE EXTENT DEEMED NECESSARY BY THOSE CON-
CERNED." WORDING IS AS AMBIGUOUS IN SWEDISH AS IN
ENGLISH, AND EMBOFF WENT TO FONMIN TO PRESENT VIEW
THAT "THOSE CONCERNED" MEANT THE DIPLOMATS THEMSELVES.
FONMIN AGREED WITH THIS INTERPRETATION, GAVE EMBOFF
APPLICATION FORMS FOR ADDITIONAL GASOLINE FOR PRIVATE
VEHICLES OF THOSE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST, BUT POINTED OUT
THAT FONOFF WAS ONLY A "MAILBOX", AND THAT DECISION LAY
WITH TRANSPORT MINISTRY.

4) EMBASSY APPLIED FOR ADDITIONAL 200 LITERS PER
FAMILY, MAKING RATION EQUIVALENT TO U.S. 10-GALLON-PER-
WEEK GUIDELINE. TO DATE, NO DECISION ON THESE APPLICA-
TIONS OR, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ON APPLICATIONS
BY OTHER EMBASSIES HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM GOS.
FONOFF STATED TODAY THAT TRANSPORT MINISTRY IS
"WORKING ON DIPLOMATIC APPLICATIONS FIRST", BUT NO
ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS HAVE YET BEEN RELEASED.
OLSEN UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE009517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP: LRHAGE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740137/aaaabiy.nel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPLAINTS BY UN DIPLOMATS ON GASOLINE SHORTAGE 1) SITUATION RE: GAS RATIONING IN SWEDEN AS FOLLOWS
TAGS: AORG, OGEN, SW, UN
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005